

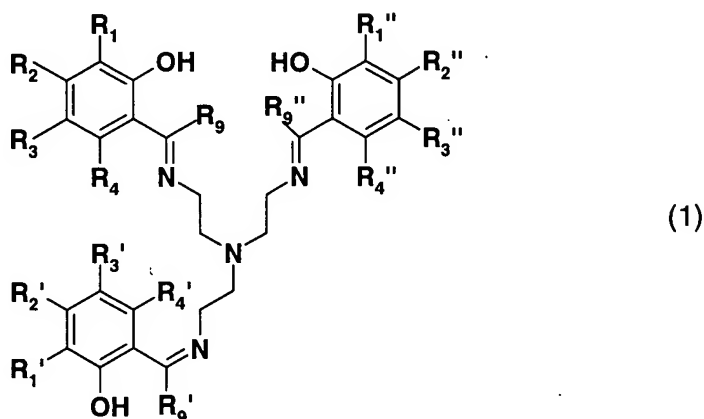
## IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 23.

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

Claims 1-21 (cancelled).

22. (currently amended): A process for oxidation, which comprises oxidizing an oxidizable substrate with a mixture of a peroxygen compound and, as oxidation catalyst, a Mn(III) or Fe(III) metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula

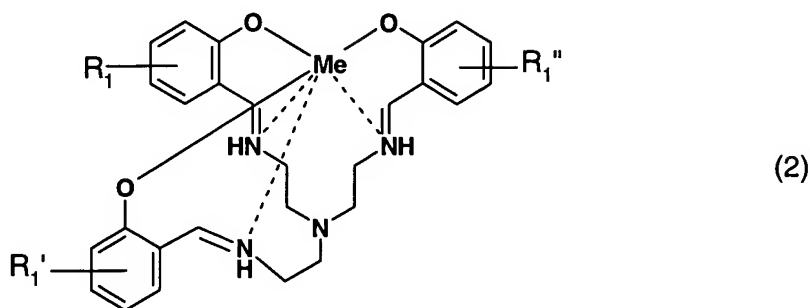


where

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_3''$  and  $R_4''$  are each independently hydrogen, cyano, halogen,  $SO_3M$ , where  $M$  is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, an alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium or an organic ammonium cation,  $SO_2NH_2$ ,  $SO_2NHR_5$ ,  $SO_2N(R_5)_2$ ,  $OR_5$  or  $COOR_5$ , where  $R_5$  is hydrogen or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl, nitro, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl, linear or branched fluorinated or perfluorinated  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$ ,  $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$  or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl- $R_8$ , where  $R_8$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $COOR_5$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$  or  $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$ , where  $R_6, R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  are identical or different and each is linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl or where  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  combine with the joining nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further heteroatoms, and where  $R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl or aryl.

23 (cancelled).

24. (previously presented): A process according to claim 23, in which the metal complex is a 1:1 metal(III) complex of the formula

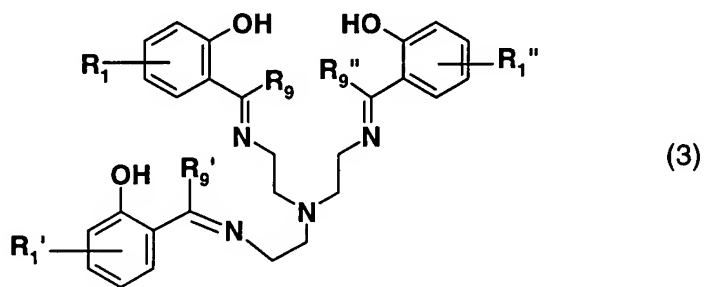


where Me is Mn or Fe,  $R_1$ ,  $R_1'$  and  $R_1''$  are each independently hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$  or  $-N^{\oplus}R_5R_6R_7$ , where  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl.

25. (previously presented): A process according to claim 24, wherein the metal complex is an Mn(III) complex.

26. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, wherein a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) is used in an aqueous solution together with a peroxygen compound for bleaching spots or stains on textile material.

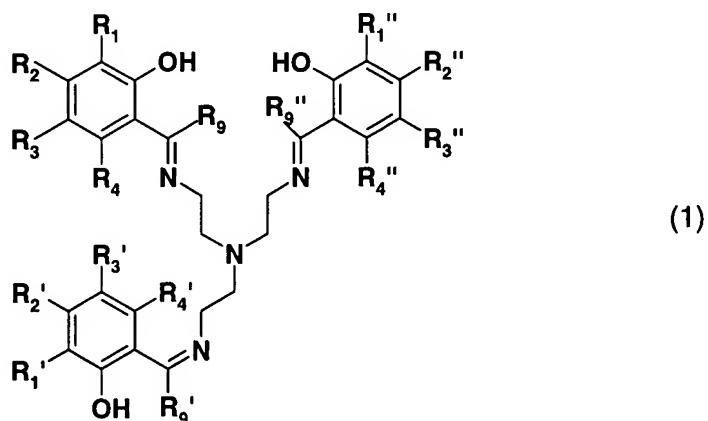
27. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, wherein the tripodal ligand conforms to the formula



where

$R_1$ ,  $R_1'$  and  $R_1''$  are each independently hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$  or  $-N^{\oplus}R_5R_6R_7$ , where  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl and  $R_9$ ,  $R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl or aryl.

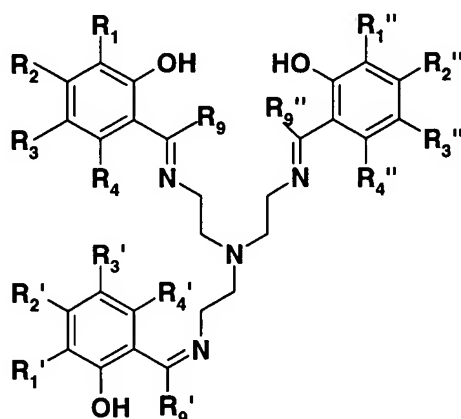
28. (currently amended): A manganese(III) or iron(III) complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula



where

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_3'', R_4''$  are each independently hydrogen, cyano, ~~halogen~~ Cl, F,  $SO_3M$ , where M is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, an alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium or an organic ammonium cation,  $SO_2NH_2$ ,  $SO_2NHR_5$ ,  $SO_2N(R_5)_2$ ,  $OR_5$  or  $COOR_5$ , where  $R_5$  is hydrogen or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl, nitro, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl, linear or branched fluorinated or perfluorinated  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$ ,  $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$  or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl- $R_8$ , where  $R_8$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $COOR_5$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$  or  $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$ , where  $R_6, R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  are identical or different and each is linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl or where  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  combine with the joining nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further heteroatoms, and where  $R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl or aryl, subject to the condition that in the manganese(III) complex at least one of the substituents  $R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_3'', R_4'', R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  has a meaning other than hydrogen and that at least one of the substituents  $R_3, R_3'$  and  $R_3''$  has a meaning other than chlorine when the substituents  $R_1, R_2, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_4'', R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  are all hydrogen.

29. (currently amended): A ligand of the formula



(1)

where

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_3''$  and  $R_4''$  are each independently hydrogen, cyano, halogen Cl, F,  $SO_3M$ , where  $M$  is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, an alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium or an organic ammonium cation,  $SO_2NH_2$ ,  $SO_2NHR_5$ ,  $SO_2N(R_5)_2$ ,  $OR_5$  or  $COOR_5$ , where  $R_5$  is hydrogen or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl, nitro, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl, linear or branched fluorinated or perfluorinated  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$ ,  $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$  or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl- $R_8$ , where  $R_8$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $COOR_5$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR_6$ ,  $NR_6R_7$  or  $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$ , where  $R_6, R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  are identical or different and each is linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl or where  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  combine with the joining nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further heteroatoms, and where  $R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl or aryl, subject to the condition that in the manganese(III) complex at least one of the substituents  $R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_3'', R_4'', R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  has a meaning other than hydrogen and that at least one of the substituents  $R_3, R_3'$  and  $R_3''$  has a meaning other than chlorine when the substituents  $R_1, R_2, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_4', R_1'', R_2'', R_4'', R_9, R_9'$  and  $R_9''$  are all hydrogen.

30. (currently amended): A washing or cleaning process, which comprises adding to a liquor which contains a peroxidic detergent, 0.1 to 200  $\mu\text{mol}$  per litre of wash liquor of one or more metal complexes or an uncomplexed ligand of the formula (1) according to claim 29.

31. (previously presented): A process for preventing the redeposition of migrating dyes in a wash liquor, which comprises adding to the wash liquor, which contains a peroxidic detergent, 0.5 to 150 mg per litre of wash liquor of one or more metal complexes containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22.

32. (previously presented): A laundry detergent comprising

- I) 5 - 90% of A) an anionic surfactant and/or B) a nonionic surfactant,
- II) 5 - 70% of C) a builder,
- III) 0.1 - 30% of D) a peroxide, and
- IV) 0.005 - 2% of E) a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22, the percentages all being percent by weight based on the total weight of the laundry detergent.

33. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, in which a hard surface is cleaned.

34. (previously presented): A hard surface cleaner, which comprises a peroxygen compound and a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22 as catalyst for the peroxygen compound.

35. (previously presented): A hard surface cleaner according to claim 34, which is an automatic dishwasher cleaning composition.

36. (previously presented): A process for cleaning crockery, which comprises using a hard surface cleaner according to claim 35.

37. (previously presented): A process according to claim 33, wherein the hard surfaces which are cleaned are tiles and inter-tile joints.

38. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, which is a process for killing bacteria or for protecting a surface against bacterial colonization.

39. (previously presented): An aqueous suspension comprising

- a) 1 - 60% by weight of a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22,
- b) 0.5 to 15% by weight of a dispersant,
- c) 0 - 10% by weight of a further ingredient, and
- d) 15 - 98.5% by weight of water.

40. (previously presented): A solid preparation comprising

- a) 1 - 99% by weight of a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22,

- b) 1 to 99% by weight of a carrier material,
- c) 0 - 20% by weight of a dispersant,
- d) 0 - 10% by weight of a further ingredient, and
- e) 0 - 5% by weight of water.

41. (previously presented): An aqueous suspension according to claim 39, wherein the metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined therein has an average particle size of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

42. (previously presented): A solid preparation according to claim 40, wherein the metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined therein has an average particle size of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

43. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, which is a process for removing printing inks from printed waste paper (de-inking).